A NEW *MATELEA* (ASCLEPIADACEAE) FROM THE BAHAMAS

David L. Spellman[1]

Preparation of a new account of the flora of the Bahamas by Dr. Donovan S. Correll of Fairchild Tropical Garden has led to recent intensive collections from those islands by Dr. Correll. The new taxon described below represents the first record of this large and interesting genus from these islands. While known from a number of other Caribbean islands, *Matelea* is nowhere as abundant nor diverse as in the tropical areas of the mainland land mass of North and South America.

Matelea correllii Spellman, sp. nov.—Fig. 1.

Caules scandens; foliis anguste ovatis, basibus rotundato-truncatis, inflorescentia fere epedunculata, corollis rotatis, viridibus, macula albo ad apicem, gynostegio rubrifusco, apice tholiformi, corona quinquiangulari, basaliter striata autem columna laevi, folliculo anguste obovoideo, quinqueali.

Slender *vines*; stems weakly and sparsely retrorse hispid when young, becoming glabrous. *Leaves* narrowly ovate, apically acute, mucronulate, basally truncate to slightly rounded, glabrous above and below except for short hairs along the margins and along the larger veins beneath, the lower surface somewhat pustulate at least when dry; blades mostly 5–7 cm long, 1.5–2 cm broad; petioles retrorse hispid, 0.5–0.7 cm long, a cluster of dactyliform glands at the juncture of petiole and blade. *Inflorescence* an interaxillary contracted umbelliform raceme, apparently 3–5 flowered, glabrous or nearly so; peduncles mostly ca. 2 mm long; pedicels 4–5 mm long. *Flowers* 13–15 mm in diameter; calyx deeply cut, glabrous on both surfaces, the lobes ovate, 3–3.5 mm long, mostly 2.5 mm wide, a single gland within the base of each sinus; corolla rotate, green with darker green venation, usually with a small white spot at the apex of each lobe, glabrous throughout, the tube ca. 1 mm long or less, the limb deeply cut, the lobes broadly ovate, 5.5–6.5 mm long, 4.5–5.5 mm wide; gynostegium ca. 1.5–2 mm high, red brown, the head sharply pentagonal, ca. 2.5 mm in diameter, terminated by a rounded dome with a shallow depression in its center; corona carnose, red brown, broadly pentagonal, 3 mm in diameter, appearing to consist of two distinct parts, a basal thickened striate portion rather sharply delineated from the upper skirt-like smooth portion which is slightly concave beneath each of the 5 anthers; pollinia compressed, broadly obpyriform, excavated on one side, 0.8 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, the corpusculum subsagittate, ca. 0.3 mm long, 0.2 mm wide, the translators ca. 0.7 mm long. *Follicles* narrowly obovoid, longitudinally 5-winged, puberulous when young, glabrous or nearly so at maturity, 7 cm long, 1.5–2 cm in diameter, the wings 1–2 cm wide; seeds flattened, ovate, ca. 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the marginal wing ca. 0.5 mm wide, irregularly and vaguely serrate

[1] Research Associate, Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

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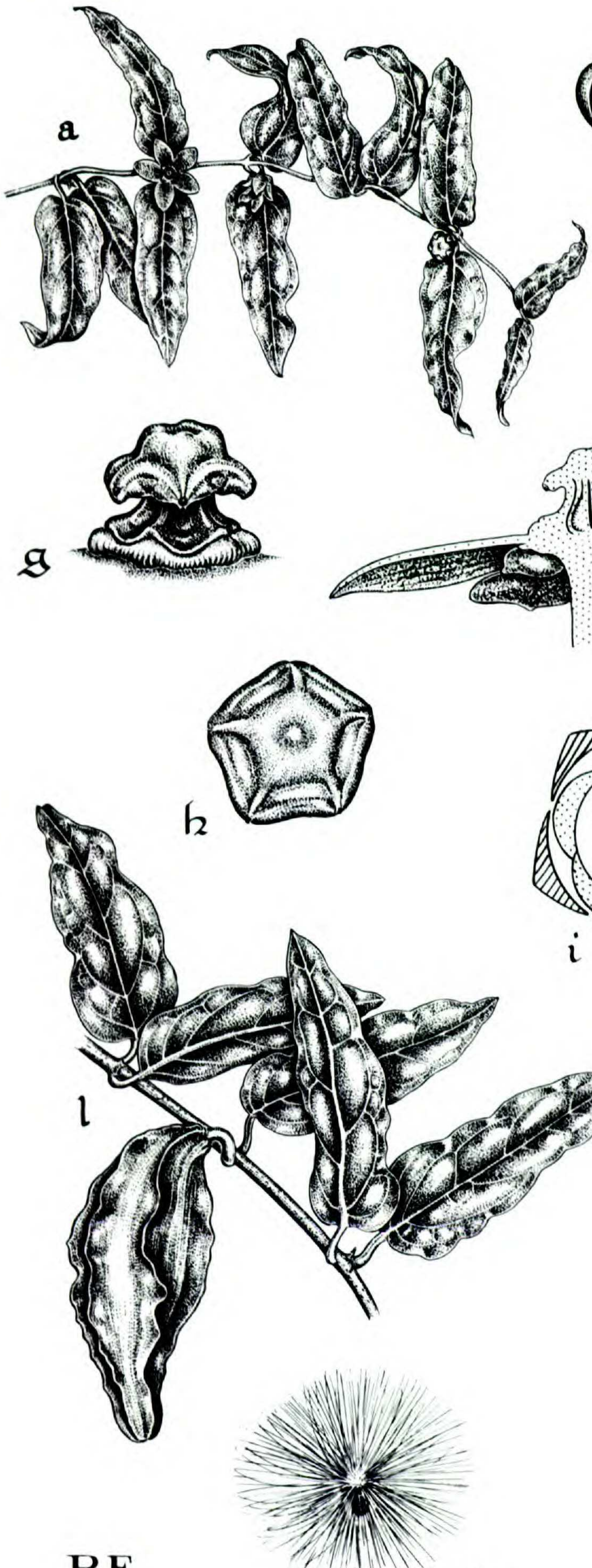
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at one end, surface minutely pustulate with dark broken reticulations scattered irregularly over the surface, the coma white, 2–3 cm long.

TYPE: BAHAMA ISLANDS. LONG ISLAND: Vine climbing on trees and shrubs in low places along Queen's Highway about 4 miles north of Clarence Town center, 18 Nov. 1977, *D.S. Correll 49112* (MO, holotype; F, FTG, GH, NY, US, isotypes).

Additional collection examined (fruiting): BAHAMA ISLANDS. LONG ISLAND: About 3 miles west of Clarence Town along Queen's Highway, on edge of low swampy area on north side of highway, vine on shrubs, 14 March 1977, *D.S. Correll 48157* (F, FTG, GH, MO, NY, US).

Except for its generally larger size, this species is remarkably similar to the Guatemalan-Belizean *M. pusilliflora* L. Wms. This resemblance is manifest in the glabrous usually truncate leaves, nearly sessile inflorescence, and dark green flowers with their white-tipped lobes. It also bears a superficial resemblance to *M. grisebachiana* Alain from Cuba, a species which is much more pubescent throughout, and has a larger corona which is more circular than angular.

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FIGURE 1. ***Matelea correllii*** Spellman—a. Flowering stem (×½).—b. Flower bud (×3).—c. Inflorescence (×1½).—d. Flower (×1½).—e. Detail of corolla lobe venation (×6).—f. Flower, longitudinal section (×3).—g. Gynostegium (×6).—h. Gynostegium from above (×6).—i. Floral diagram.—j. Young fruit, longitudinal section (×3).—k. Corolla enfolded over young fruit (×3).—l. Fruiting stem (×½).—m. Dehiscing fruit (×½).—n. Seed with coma (×½).—o. Seed, coma removed (×3). Illustrated by Priscilla Fawcett.